



June 29, 2005

Mr. William Wood, Chairman
Voting Systems Panel
California Secretary of State 1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA FACSIMILE: (916) 653-3214

RE: Features and Functionality of Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Voting Technology

Dear Chairman Wood:

The purpose of this correspondence is to express the positions of Riverside County on several matters presently before the Voting Systems Panel (VSP) related to the features and functionality of Direct Record Electronic (DRE) voting equipment.

In 2000, Riverside County was the first jurisdiction in the state to adopt and implement DRE voting technology. With an inventory of 4,250 Sequoia Voting Systems' Edge I DRE units, the County has conducted 33 successful elections utilizing electronic voting equipment. Twenty-percent (20%) of our inventory is equipped with audio voting technology for the visually impaired and/or literacy-challenged voters. As such, we have been able to share our experience and lessons learned with our colleagues, particularly as they evaluate the voting technology options for complying with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Riverside County provides two voting systems—electronic voting and the paper absentee ballot. Our voters are familiar with these options and expect to vote via touch-screen when arriving at a polling site, while voters desiring a paper ballot request an absentee ballot to cast their vote prior to Election Day. The November 2004 *Presidential* General Election validated this observation when less than 1% of our voters requested a paper ballot at the polls. In addition, over 25,000 voters voted electronically at early voting sites throughout the county.

The Sequoia Edge I complies with the elements of HAVA including a review screen that presents the voter's selections on all contests and affords the voter the opportunity to make changes before casting the ballot. Senate Bill 1468 adds a Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) requirement for DREs for voter verification of a paper record reflecting the selections on the touch screen. Riverside is awaiting certification of a VVPAT device for use with Edge I units to comply this mandate for elections conducted after January 1, 2006. However, two distinct types of information must be incorporated into the paper record to successfully use it as an audit tool—a voting unit identifier and a provisional ballot "tag" or issue code.

Voting units are assigned to polling sites/precincts. If the paper record is to be used to conduct any kind of audit during canvass, the paper record must be imprinted with the serial number (or other unique identifier) of the voting unit which bears the corresponding ballots. Otherwise, it will be virtually impossible to audit a single precinct.

HAVA contains Free Access mandates that require the voter be able to find out the disposition of a provisional ballot cast. Riverside County uses electronic provisional ballots. A VVPAT record of a provisional ballot must be imprinted with the "tag" or issue code that corresponds to the voter's eligibility information to ensure that during reconciliation non-eligible provisional ballots can be identified, segregated and excluded from the tabulation.

Riverside County reflects California's rapidly-growing and diverse population with over 775,000 registered voters spread over 7200 square miles (from within 14 miles of the Pacific Ocean to the Colorado River). Electronic voting technology affords the opportunity to transmit vote totals from regional count centers to expedite the compilation of unofficial results, allows more votes to be counted (no over-votes), accommodates voters with disabilities, provides accessibility for the visually-impaired and literacy-challenged with audio voting, and offers the ability to expand voting opportunities prior to Election Day at early voting sites. It is imperative that election officials be afforded the opportunity to fully utilize these accommodations and efficiencies to enhance voter participation with widely accepted applications that do not compromise the integrity of the election process.

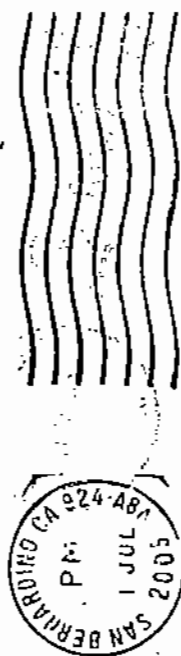
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and share our experience with DRE voting technology and the enhancements we have gained from its utilization. We look forward to using it well into the future to serve the voters of Riverside County.

If I can provide any further information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Dunmore", written in a cursive style.

Barbara Dunmore
Registrar of Voters



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05 JUL -5 PM 12:22

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June 29, 2005

William Woods, Chairman
Voting Systems & Procedures Panel
Secretary of State
Executive Division
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE DIEBOLD TSx VOTING SYSTEM

Dear Honorable Chairman Woods,

San Joaquin County supports the certification of the Diebold TSx electronic voting system. This County was one of 4 counties that used the Diebold TSx Electronic Voting System in the June 2004 Primary Election. The TSx system worked without problems in San Joaquin County and passed all parallel State monitoring tests on Election Day.

California needs this electronic voting system certified and in place by January 2006 in order to comply with the new Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements. These requirements will be enforced by the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ). Every delay makes it less likely that all of California Counties will meet HAVA compliance by that date. The Diebold TSx Voting System has passed Federal qualification and California State testing with the 2002 Federal Standards. This system has the Accessible Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (AVVPAT) that is now required in California.

San Joaquin County must make a decision before August 1st, 2005 to use paper or electronic voting systems. California counties need all the time possible to prepare for each election. This is due to the short amount time necessary to retrofit the equipment, test the equipment, set up training classes for precinct workers, and educate voters on how to vote. San Joaquin County knows the difficulties and the time needed to implement changes necessary, due to the differences in the voting systems.

Security

The San Joaquin Registrar of Voters office has taken extensive security measures in our office, adding cameras, using security badges, adding additional Deputy Sheriffs, and moving toward biometrics. This new version of the Diebold TSx also includes additional security measures. Security is a living analysis that is changing with the new hardware and software implementations. The Diebold TSx is not an online system.

AVVPAT

AVVPAT will have discrepancies between the precinct reporting totals and the AVVPAT. Due to the fact provisional ballot must be verified as to whether each ballot should be counted either in part or in its entirety. Election night totals will not include provisional ballots. The final results will include only the provisional ballots accepted as good; however, all provisional ballots will have a full AVVPAT.

San Joaquin County supports the certification of the Diebold TSx electronic voting system and needs certification of the system soon to make available the choice to implement electronic voting and comply with the intent of HAVA, including allowing some in the disabled community to vote in secret. It is for these reasons that San Joaquin County supports the certification of the Diebold TSx electronic voting system.

Sincerely,

Deborah S. Hench
Registrar of Voters

FAX COVER LETTER



From

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

PO BOX 810. STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95201

Date:

6/29/05

Number of Pages :

Including Cover Sheet:

2

To

Bruce McNamald

From: Registrar of Voters

Robby Hench

Fax:

(209) 468-2889

Phone:

(209) 468-8945 or 468-3191

Remarks:

☐ Urgent

☐ For your review

☐ Reply ASAP

☐ Please

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WILLIAM WOODS, CHAIRMAN
VOTING SYSTEMS & PROCEDURES PANEL
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